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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/886,779 | 06/21/2001 | Chandran R. Sabanayagam | 701586/50113-C | 6933 |

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EXAMINER

LU, FRANK WEI MIN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1634

DATE MAILED: 04/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--|
| Advisory Action Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief | Application No. 09/886,779 | Applicant(s) SABANAYAGAM ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Frank W. Lu | Art Unit 1634 | |

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED _____ FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☐ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☐ The period for reply expires _____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
 b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☒ The Notice of Appeal was filed on 03 April 2006. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☒ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
 (a) ☒ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 (b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
 (c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 (d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).
 5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
 6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
 7. ☒ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☒ will not be entered, or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.
 The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:
 Claim(s) allowed: _____.
 Claim(s) objected to: _____.
 Claim(s) rejected: 11 and 23-38.
 Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).
 9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of a good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).
 10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☐ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: _____.
 12. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08 or PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.
 13. ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

ADVISORY ACTION

1. The proposed amendments filed on April 3, 2006 have been fully considered but will not be entered because they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search.

Response to Arguments

I. In page 7, fourth to seventh paragraphs of applicant's remarks, applicant argues that the amendments on claims 11, 23, and 30 have overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

This argument has been fully considered but it is not persuasive toward the withdrawal of the restriction requirement because applicant's arguments with respect to claims 11 and 23 are moot since applicant has amended claims 11, 23, and 30. For example, applicant has changed "the growth strand" in d) of the claims into "a growth strand", the phrase "each extended immobilized oligonucleotide comprises at least two copies extending at the terminus in the z-dimension" in d) of claim 23 into "each extended immobilized oligonucleotide comprises at least two copies extending at the terminus in the direction of the z-dimension", and the phrase "each extended immobilized oligonucleotide comprises at least two copies of said sequence of interest such that the array has redundancy in the terminus of the z-dimension" in claim 30 into "each extended immobilized oligonucleotide comprises at least two copies of said sequence of interest such that the array has redundancy in the terminus extending to the direction of the z-dimension".

II. In page 8 of applicant's remarks, applicant argues that the amendments on claims 11, 23, and 30 have overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e).

This argument has been fully considered but it is not persuasive toward the withdrawal of the restriction requirement because applicant's arguments with respect to claims 11 and 23 are moot since applicant has amended claims 11, 23, and 30. For example, the phrase "wherein said extended immobilized oligonucleotide has [a] unique 3' terminus resulting from the termination of the amplification of the sequence of interest" in d) of claim 11, the phrase "wherein each of said extended immobilized oligonucleotide has [a] unique 3' terminus, namely, the 3' terminus that extends in the direction of z-dimension varies according to the sequence of interest" in d) of claim 23, and the phrase "wherein said extended immobilized oligonucleotide has [a] unique 3' terminus resulting from the termination of the amplification of the sequence of interest" are new limitations and have not found in claims 11, 23, and 30 filed on August 5, 2005. These new limitations on claims 11, 23, and 30 raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search.

2. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 1600 via the PTO Fax Center. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1988), 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993), and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993)(See 37 CAR § 1.6(d)). The CM Fax Center number is (571)273-8300.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frank Lu, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (571)272-0746. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ram Shukla, can be reached on (571)272-0735.

Art Unit: 1634

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to (571) 272-0547.

Frank Lu
Primary Examiner
April 11, 2006



FRANK LU
PRIMARY EXAMINER